

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

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UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE KC FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's conviction, Graves said, marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

George S. Schrand, Jr., 22, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Schrand** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum revolver on Oct. 17, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Schrand** has several 2002 criminal felony convictions for theft, obstruction, assault and battery.

Schrand was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 21, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow